

Oregon's Access & Habitat Board News

Summer 2007



The Oregon Legislature established the Access and Habitat Program in 1993 using a \$2 surcharge on hunting licenses. The A&H Board, composed of members of the public, identifies and recommends funding for projects that improve wildlife habitat and facilitate public hunting access on private lands.

A&H Program helps battle invasive weeds

The proliferation of non-native invasive plants is a growing threat to agriculture and wildlife throughout Oregon and is a particular problem east of the Cascade Mountains. Spread by animals, water, wind and human activity, non-native invasive weeds will infest agricultural lands and wildlife habitat, reduce available forage for big game and livestock, contribute to erosion, increase fire danger, out-compete native plants and, in some cases, are toxic to people and animals.

Some of the biggest culprits include gorse, yellow starthistle, spotted knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, leafy spurge



Spotted knapweed is just one of a long lineup of noxious invasive weeds that threaten Oregon's wildlife habitat and farming and ranching industries. Photo by Jim Yuskavitch

and perennial pepperweed. Once these invaders become established they can be difficult to control and impossible to eradicate. It is estimated that non-native, invasive plants cause Oregon as much as \$83 million in economic losses annually.

Recognizing the scope of the problem, the Access and Habitat Program has been on the forefront of efforts to control and eradicate invasive plant by providing grant funds to local government agencies and private landowners for weed control projects.

For example, last year the A&H Program awarded a \$400,000 grant to Forest Capital Partners to help fund a five-year project to control invasive, non-native weeds and improve wildlife habitat on 100,000 acres of industrial timberlands the company owns in Northeast Oregon.

The A&H Program also provided the Harney County Weed Management Area Partnership with an \$8,500 grant for invasive weed control.

The partnership is made up of local, state and federal agencies, including ODFW, and helps landowners control weed infestations on their properties. The grant funds are being used to purchase herbicide-spraying equipment.

Hunters can help slow the spread of weeds by cleaning vehicles, tires and camping gear to eliminate hitchhiking seeds. Farmers and ranchers are helping by using certified 'weed free' hay to feed their livestock.

But once noxious weeds take hold on a property, only aggressive treatment with herbicides or mechanical techniques will be effective and A&H Program funding is often critical to successful control efforts.

New A&H Board members sought

More than 45 percent of land in Oregon is privately-owned, making private landowners essential to keeping hunters hunting and wildlife habitat healthy in Oregon. Help increase hunting access and improve wildlife habitat on private lands by serving on the Board of ODFW's Access and Habitat Program.

Applications are now being accepted for two landowner representatives on the statewide Board. Oregonians with an interest in hunting and wildlife—especially those that own rural land and understand landowners' concerns—are encouraged to apply by the Oct. 19 deadline.

Responsibilities of the position include attendance at quarterly meetings held at locations statewide, where Board members review A&H project proposals. The individuals appointed will serve the term of Jan. 1, 2008 - Dec. 31, 2011.

Applicants for the two positions will initially be considered by state Department of Forestry and Department of Agriculture staff, who will forward their recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Commission will make the final appointments of the two statewide landowner representative positions during their Dec. 7 meeting in Salem.

Visit the Access and Habitat web page below for an application or contact Eric Rickerson at (503) 947-6082.

A&H on the Web

www.dfw.state.or.us/AH/



2007 Auction and Raffle programs garner \$376,572 to A&H Program

This year's A&H Auction and Raffle programs brought in a total of \$376,572 that will be used to fund wildlife habitat and hunter access projects throughout Oregon.

Ten hunts for deer and/or elk were auctioned at the fundraising banquets of sponsoring hunter conservation organizations that included Oregon Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Oregon Bow Hunters, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Safari Club International.

The auctions earned \$258,500, with sponsoring groups keeping 10 percent for their conservation projects and the remainder going to the A&H Program. The 2007 A&H Raffle Program also offered ten deer and/or elk hunts and earned \$118,072 in revenue.

Raffle and auction hunt winners will be able to hunt during an extended season that runs from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 2007 across multiple management units.

This year's winners are:

2007 Auction Hunt Winners

Governor's Combination Statewide Deer and Elk, \$36,000, Joseph Regan, Wilsonville

Statewide Deer, \$25,000, Roger Wendell, Vancouver, Wash.

Statewide Deer, \$30,000, Terry Hickson, Springfield

Statewide Deer, \$36,000, James Liautaud, Champaign, Ill.

Statewide Deer, \$29,000, Kathy Kruse, Fort Rock

Statewide Elk, \$32,500, Wayne Holm, North Plains

Statewide Elk, \$27,000, Ken Kruse, Fort Rock

Statewide Elk, \$26,000 Donnie Allen, Klamath Falls

Statewide Elk, \$17,000, Dan Agnew, Vancouver, Wash.

2007 Raffle Hunt Winners

Statewide Combination Deer and Elk
Alfredo Julian, Vancouver, Wash.

Statewide Deer, Marvin Farley, Ontario

Southeast Oregon Deer
Gerald Warnock, Portland

Central Oregon Deer
Richard Bernards, McMinnville

Northeast Oregon Deer
Brandon Bertschy, Hillsboro

Statewide Elk
Brian Martin, McMinnville

Northeast Oregon Elk
Gary Schoenborn, Wamic

Central/Southeast Oregon Elk
Greg Killinger, Craig, Alaska

Western Oregon Elk
William Meilicke, Medford

Calendar of Events

July 24

A&H Board Meeting,
Salem, 503-947-6314

September 6-7*

Oregon Fish and Wildlife
Commission Meeting, Klamath Falls
503-947-6044

September 14

A&H Grant Application Deadline
503-947-6314

October 4

A&H Advisory Council review of
project grant applications
503-947-6314

October 15-16

A&H Board Meeting,
Burns, 503-947-6314

* Listed Commission meetings are those where A&H Project applications will be reviewed for final approval.

Have an idea for an A&H Project?

If you have an idea for a project that increases public hunting access to private lands and/or improves wildlife habitat contact the A&H Regional Coordinator nearest you for advice and assistance on applying for an A&H grant.

Northwest Region

Troy Laws, Tillamook 503-842-2741
Jim Young, Corvallis 541-757-4186

Southwest Region

Vince Oredson, 541-826-8774
Central Point

High Desert Region

Larry Pecenka, Bend 541-388-6444
Dan Gonzalez, Hines 541-573-6582

Northeast Region

Jon Paustian, La Grande 541-963-2138

To receive a free subscription to *Oregon's Access and Habitat Board News* just fill out this form and mail it to: Access and Habitat Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 3406 Cherry Avenue, N.E., Salem, OR 97303

Name _____

Street/P.O. Box _____

City/State/ZIP Code _____



15 New A&H Project Grants Approved

F&W Commission awards \$1.6 million for new projects at June 2007 meeting

1 Heppner Regulated Hunt Area

A \$319,780 grant will be used to allow continued 'welcome to hunt' public access to 42,304 acres of private lands near Heppner for the next five years. Known as the Heppner Regulated Hunt Area, it has provided public hunting opportunities for 39 years. The grant funds will be used to provide six landowners currently involved in the program with a per-acre payments in return for keeping their lands open.

2 Tillamook Bay Wetlands

Tillamook County has received a \$4,700 grant to develop permanent public access to tidal wetlands by constructing a parking area and informational kiosk to educate the public about waterfowl hunting.

3 Lincoln County Forest Protection Project

The Lincoln County Solid Waste District was awarded \$100,000 to provide open hunting access to 294,372 acres of private timberlands in Lincoln County for five years. The grant will be used to help fund law enforcement patrols.

4 City of Ontario Public Recreation Access Project

A \$74,167 grant to Malheur County Pheasants Forever will be used to lease 800 acres of property owned by the City of Ontario for public hunting access for 10 years.

5 Bentz Access Expansion Project

A \$98,210 grant will be used to pay Malheur County landowner Mike Bentz to expand public access to his property by 4,276 acres for 10 years. Currently, he allows access to 400 acres through an agreement with the A&H Program.

6 Alvord Access Project

A \$120,125 grant will be used to pay Harney County landowner Ed Davis a per-acre fee to continue allowing public hunting access to 10,500 acres for an additional five years.

7 Otley Access Project

Harney County landowner Charlie Otley has received a \$378,582 grant to provide public hunting access on 16,737 acres for 10 years. He will be paid on a yearly per-acre basis.

8 Roaring Springs Access Project

Roaring Springs Ranch has been awarded a \$203,370 grant

to provide public hunting access to 20,137 acres of private lands in the Catlow Valley for the next 10 years. The landowner will be paid on a per-acre basis in return for allowing public access.

9 Lane Sage Grouse Enhancement Project

A \$15,000 grant awarded to landowner Tom Lane will be used to improve sage grouse habitat on his property in the Warner Valley by cutting 500 acres of junipers, which will promote increased plant diversity.

10 Star 1 Trust Habitat Enhancement Project

Crook County landowners Melva Stahancyk and Dale Ackler have received a \$52,800 grant to improve wildlife habitat on their property that has been damaged by livestock and to thin junipers. In exchange for the grant, the landowners will allow disabled and youth hunting on 920 acres for the next five years.

11 Upland Habitat Initiative for Columbia Plateau

A \$145,500 grant will be used by Pheasants Forever and the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District to hire habitat specialist for three years to improve upland game bird habitat on private lands in Morrow County.

12 Chandler Family Ranch Oak Woodland Restoration

The Chandler Family Ranch received a \$9,374 grant to restore 65 acres of oak woodland and provide by-permission hunting access to 1,350 acres of their property in Coos County.

13 Peila Seed and Fertilizer Project

Harney County landowner Jack Peila was awarded \$52,117 to seed and fertilize an alfalfa field heavily used by pronghorn. In return for the grant, he will allow five years of by-permission pronghorn hunting access on 2,000 acres of his property.

14 Robertson Seed and Fertilizer Project

A \$30,100 grant will be used by Harney County landowner Joseph Robertson to seed and fertilize an alfalfa field heavily used by pronghorn. In return for the grant, he will allow five years of by-permission pronghorn hunting access on 320 acres.

15 A&H Project Assistant

A \$7,000 grant will be used by ODFW to pay a seasonal employee to post hunting access signs at properties that allow public hunting through the A&H Program in the Malheur Watershed District.

Access and Habitat Board
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 3406 Cherry Avenue, N.E.
 Salem, OR 97303-4924



For information on applying for an Access and Habitat
 Program grant contact A&H Program staff at
 3406 Cherry Avenue N.E., Salem, OR 97303-4924 503-947-6314

Oregon's Access and Habitat Board News, Summer 2007, Vol. 12, No. 3

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